

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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R 291324Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1518
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0648

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, SUBJECT: VISIT OF SUDANESE DELEGATION TO DAMASCUS

1. SUMMARY: INCLUSION OF DAMASCUS IN CAIRO-KHARTOUM
UNITY SCHEME PROBABLY REFLECTS EXPECTED SYRIAN
RECEPTIVITY TO UNITY INSTINCT. END SUMMARY.

2. THOUGH SOME TIME HAS PASSED SINCE JANUARY 15-16
VISIT TO DAMASCUS BY SUDANESE VP AND DEFMIN, FEW
DETAILS HAVE EMERGED LOCALLY AS TO MOTIVATION OF VISIT.
PRES. ASAD RECEIVED DELEGATION TWICE; ACCORDING TO
MEDIA, DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON BILATERAL RELATIONS AND
"GENERAL SITUATION IN ARAB REGION". THEY ALSO MET
WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS OF BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND
TO DISCUSS COOPERATION IN FIELD OF PROFESSIONAL
SYNDICATES BETWEEN BP AND SUDANESE SOCIALIST UNION;
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AND WITH DEFMIN TCLASS AND COS SHIHABI.

3. UPON THEIR RETURN TO KHARTOUM, THEY TOLD SANA
CORRESPONDENT THERE THAT MINI-SUMMIT WILL BE HELD IN
SUDANESE CAPITAL NEXT MONTH AMONG NUMAYRI, SADAT AND
ASAD. SSU SEC GEN ALSO REITERATED TO CORRESPONDENT HIS
PARTY'S SOLIDARITY WITH BPS. TO DEMONSTRATE SYRO-

SUDANESE CONCERN TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR TIES, SARG
DISPATCHED BP DELEGATION HEADED BY NC MEMBER SUHAYL
SUKKARIYAH -- WHO IS ONE OF LEBANESE REPS ON NC -- TO
SUDAN TO MEET WITH HIS COUNTERPARTS IN SSU. JANUARY 28
DAMASCUS RADIO REPORTED SUKKARIYAH HAD DELIVERED SPEECH
TO SSU CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF
ARAB SOLIDARITY AND SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON.

4. COMMENT: JUDING BY SELECTION OF SUKKARIYAH TO
VISIT KHARTOUM AND CONTENT OF HIS SPEECH, SARG HAS
WASTED LITTLE TIME IN UTILIZING SUDANESE DESIRE FOR
CLOSER RELATIONS TO PROMOTE SYRIAN POLICY IN LEBANON.
WHILE THIS SUGGESTS SARG QUICK TO DERIVE BENEFITS FROM
UNITY SCHEME, WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT DAMASCUS
ROLE IN ARRANGING EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE-SYRIAN UNITY MORE
THAN PASSIVE. LINKAGE OF DAMASCUS TO CAIRO-KHARTOUM
AXIS MAY REFLECT FEELING ON PART OF THIS REGIME THAT
ITS BAATHIS PRINCIPLES REQUIRE SHOW OF RESPONSIVENESS
TO ANY REASONABLE APPEAL TO SYRIAN UNITY INSTINCTS.
SARG RECEPTIVITY PERHAPS HEIGHTENED BY AWARENESS
SUDANESE WOULD BE MEETING IRAQI RULERS ON NEXT STOP
AFTER DEPARTING DAMASCUS. WE ALSO FIND PLAUSIBLE
RECENT IR SUGGESTING THAT ERITREAN ISSUE DISCUSSED ON
VISIT, IN VIEW OF RECENT SUDANESE-ETHIOPIAN PROBLEMS
AND SYRIAN RECORD OF SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN REVOLUTIONARIES.
IN SUM, DAMASCUS COULD HARDLY REFUSE UNITY INITIATIVE,
BUT SARG WILL SEEK INSPIRATION FOR CLOSER TIES, IF ANY,
FROM CAIRO OR KHARTOUM.

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